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Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /075 W
---------- 112340
R 100600Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6673
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BC, RH
SUBJECT: NKOMO VISITS BOTSWANA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: JOSHUA NKOMO VISITED BOTSWANA JUNE 6-9.
DURING HIS STAY HE PAID CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA AND ACTING
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ADDRESSED OPEN SESSION OF
RHODESIAN STUDENT REFUGEES, WAS INTERVIEWED BY RADIO BOTSWANA,
AND VOLUNTEERED RADIO STATEMENT ON BOMBING OF MUZOREWA HOME.
RHODESIAN ACQUAINTANCE OF NKOMO TOLD DCM THAT NKOMO IS
BECOMING CONCERNED AT CRITICAL REACTION TO CALL FOR
ELECTIONS AT UPCOMING ANC CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ANC LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO MADE A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BOTSWANA
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JUNE 6 THROUGH 9. VISIT WAS APPARENTLY MAINLY TO SEE RHODESIAN

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REFUGEES AND CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA. NKOMO FLEW TO KHAMA'S FARM IN EASTERN BOTSWANA FOR MEETING AFTERNOON OF JUNE 7. SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS A GENERAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, "A TOUR D'HORIZON".

3. THAT SAME EVENING NKOMO ADDRESSED OPEN MEETING IN GABORONE. THEME OF MEETING, WHICH WAS HELD MAINLY FOR RHODESIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS, WAS THE NEED FOR UNITY AMONG RHODESIANS WORKING FOR "INDEPENDENCE" AND MAJORITY RULE. HE STATED THAT ZIMBABWEANS KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ANGOLA AND DO NOT WANT A REPETITION IN THEIR COURTY. HOWEVER, HE CALLED UPON THE RHODESIANS IN THE AUDIENCE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES SHOULD THE STRUGGLE ESCALATE. HE WAS CONCERNED WITH TRIBALISM, URGING THE RHODESIANS NOT TO INCITE TRIBALISM FOR SELFISH ENDS AND WARNING AGAINST THE TENDENCY TO ORGANIZE ALONG TRIBAL LINES. DURING QUESTION PERIOD HE DODGED QUESTION AS TO WHY A CONGRESS WAS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. HE ANSWERED BY SAYING CONGRESS WAS CALLED FOR IN ORIGINAL AGREEMENT; IF THOSE ATTENDING CONGRESS DO NOT DESIRE ELECTIONS FOR LEADERSHIP, ELECTIONS NEED NOT BE HELD. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE WOULD ADVISE REGARDING ELECTIONS, HE RESPONDED AMBIGUOUSLY THAT HE WOULD ADVISE DOING "WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT".

4. ON JUNE 9, APPARENTLY AS SOON AS HE LEARNED OF THE EVENT, NKOMO ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT HIS REQUEST REGARDING THE MUZOREWA HOME BOMBING. STATEMENT DENOUNCED BOMBING, DENIED THERE WAS A SPLIT IN ANC AND CRITICIZED THOSE WHO SEEK TO PERPETUATE ZANU-ZAPU IDENTITIES.

5. ACCORDING TO RADIO BOTSWANA NEWSCASTER OF RHODESIAN ORIGIN, NKOMO CALLED ON HIM SUNDAY, JUNE 8, FOR "A CHAT". TENOR OF CONVERSATION WAS CONCERN ON NKOMO'S PART ABOUT CRITICISM THAT HIS SUPPORT OF THE RECENTLY SCHEDULED CONGRESS IS AN ATTEMPT TO GRAB LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. ACCORDING TO NEWSCASTER, KNOMO FELT IMPELLED TO MAKE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE BOMBING OF MUZOREWA'S HOUSE IN PART BECAUSE OF THIS CONCERN AND HIS FEAR OF BECOMING ISOLATED AS A RESULT OF THE CITICISM.

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